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*Las Casas*. "The apostle of the Indies." By Alice J. Knight. (New York: Neale publishing company, 1917. 100 p. \$1.25 net).

This little book should prove useful. The name of the great "apostle of the Indies" ought to become as familiar to English readers as that of Cortez and of Pizarro, if not of Columbus, and a book for children, obviously written to make it so, will be welcome. The author has profited from the work of Helps and Fiske, but she does not mention the former. Her narrative, creditable but not striking, embraces the more common facts known about Las Casas, and she fills in *lacunae* with a few general descriptions culled from obvious sources. It would have been well to describe more fully a few institutions like *encomienda* and *audiencia*, if she hoped to make the Spanish colonial background more real. Consistency requires that *clerico* as well as *padre* should be italicized, but there is no reason for discarding "cleric." The frontispiece is the traditional picture of Las Casas.

*Dramatic moments in American diplomacy*. By Ralph W. Page. (New York: Doubleday and Page company, 1918. 284 p. \$1.25).

One result of the late war has been to arouse the American people to the need of "diplomatic sense." The present volume represents an attempt to answer this need, as supposedly voiced by the "man on the street." Possibly the specialist in history is unable to give a fair judgment of the effort, but his natural query after a hasty perusal will inevitably be, "What's the use?" He is unconscious of any reaction that will lead him to change or adapt materially his own point of view and he knows the narrative will only fill the more uninformed reader with misconceptions. Popularization of history, taking that subject in any sense, is an unattainable dream. The specialist cannot do it, for his theme obsesses him; the hack writer fails still more miserably for he lacks the background of knowledge and fears too strongly the supposedly hungry-eyed reader. There is still room for a brief, scholarly but creditable book on American diplomacy.

*Development of Japan*. By Kenneth Scott Latourette, professor of history, Denison university. [Published under the auspices of the Japan society] (New York: Macmillan company, 1918. 237 p. \$1.50 net)

Whatever the new developments in the teaching of history, one result is certain—more attention will be paid to the past of nations hitherto ignored. Because of their physical relation to America, China and Japan will largely profit by this change of emphasis. In anticipation of the new interest, Mr. Latourette has followed his excellent *Development of China* with a similar volume on Japan. Together, they

furnish the textbooks needed for a semester course on the far east; they furnish equally good reading for the private student.

The chapter on the geographic setting of Japan makes one wish for more, so well is the relation of land and folk brought out. Most interesting is the proof that, in spite of the various strata in the population, preserved to the present in the differences between nobility and aristocracy, the environment welded all the elements into a single homogeneous people of a highly distinctive type. Equally well are brought out the causes which have made the Japanese warriors from the beginning.

Sufficient attention has been given to the earlier and more or less mythical history. Its annals are indeed not particularly interesting in detail, but the general picture presented is of the utmost value. The introduction of foreign customs from China anticipated the similar movement in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Particularly satisfactory is the parallel with the earlier adjustment to an entirely alien industrial system, in each case not sufficiently marked to overcome entirely the militaristic basis. At this time was likewise developed that theory of the monarchy which preserved the line of rulers at the expense of their power, and which has again been utilized in giving the modern state a worship of the monarch. Students of our own middle ages have already devoted some little attention to the parallel feudalism and manorialism in Japan; to the less sophisticated reader this part will have its own fascination. Throughout the whole of this section, there are excellent studies of the culture, the more valuable as they are brought into close touch with the political movements.

The story of the last half century is more familiar, but none the less interesting. Latourette has been unusually successful in omitting useless details, whether of war or of the rapidly shifting political groupings, and has thus made more clear movements on a large scale. He has brought out the undemocratic nature of the constitution and the fact that it was modeled on that of Germany. His account of the last few years is fair to Japan but by no means entirely laudatory. He has attempted to view the movements from their point of approach, but he has likewise indicated the defects of Japan from the foreign. As we should expect, relations with China are stressed and Chinese thought indicated. American participation in the affairs of the far east is chronicled without bias. It speaks well for the author's objectivity that the Japan society has brought out the book under its auspices. The most interesting appendix is still to be written, the story of Japan at the peace conference!

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